

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-14. (Cancelled).

15. (New): An alkylglycol alkoxylate or alkyldiglycol alkoxylate that is free from alcohol obtained by the process comprising:

alkoxylating C₄₋₈-alkylglycols or -diglycols with C₂₋₅-alkoxides to an average degree of alkoxylation of from 1 to 8, based on the C₄₋₈-alkylglycols or -diglycols.

16. (New): A mixture of C₂₋₅-alkoxylates of C₄₋₈-alkylglycols -or diglycols which, on average, have a degree of alkoxylation of from 1 to 8 as claimed in claim 15, and surfactants which, dissolved in an amount of 5 g/l of water, exhibit an interfacial tension of less than 45 mN/m at 20°C, and/or dihydroxyalkynes or derivatives thereof.

17. (New): A mixture as claimed in claim 16, wherein the surfactants are nonionic surfactants and are chosen from C₂₋₅-alkoxylates of C₉₋₂₀-alkanols which, on average, have a degree of alkoxylation of from 3 to 30, and mixtures thereof.

18. (New): A mixture as claimed in claim 16, wherein the surfactants are low-foam or foam-suppressing surfactants.

19. (New): A laundry detergent, cleaner or wetting agent or cosmetic, pharmaceutical or crop protection formulation comprising a mixture as claimed in claim 16.

20. (New): A mixture as claimed in claim 16, comprising 0.1 to 20% by weight of the C₂₋₅-alkoxylates of C₄₋₈-alkylglycols or -diglycols, based on the total weight of the mixture or of the composition.

21. (New): A method of reducing the interfacial tension and accelerating the establishment of the interfacial tension in aqueous surfactant formulations or aqueous dispersions comprising:

contacting the aqueous surfactant formulations or aqueous dispersions with C₂₋₅-alkoxylates of C₄₋₈-alkylglycols or -diglycols which, on average, have a degree of alkoxylation of from 1 to 8, as claimed in claim 15.

22. (New): A method of lowering the viscosity of surfactant-containing formulations comprising:

contacting these surfactant-containing formulations with C₂₋₅-alkoxylates of C₄₋₈-alkylglycols or -diglycols which, on average, have a degree of alkoxylation of from 1 to 8, as claimed in claim 15.

23. (New): A laundry detergent, cleaner or wetting agent or cosmetic, pharmaceutical or crop protection formulation comprising a mixture as claimed in claim 17.

24. (New): A laundry detergent, cleaner or wetting agent or cosmetic, pharmaceutical or crop protection formulation comprising a mixture as claimed in claim 18.

25. (New): A laundry detergent, cleaner or wetting agent or cosmetic, pharmaceutical or crop protection formulation comprising alkylglycol alkoxylates or alkyldiglycol alkoxylates as claimed in claim 15.

26. (New): A mixture as claimed in claim 17 comprising 0.1 to 20% by weight of the C₂₋₅-alkoxylates of C₄₋₈-alkylglycols or -diglycols, based on the total weight of the mixture.

27. (New): A mixture as claimed in claim 18 comprising 0.1 to 20% by weight of the C₂₋₅-alkoxylates of C₄₋₈-alkylglycols or -diglycols, based on the total weight of the mixture.

28. (New): A laundry detergent, cleaner or wetting agent or cosmetic, pharmaceutical or crop protection formulation as claimed in claim 19, comprising 0.1 to 20% by weight of the C₂₋₅-alkoxylates of C₄₋₈-alkylglycols or -diglycols, based on the total weight of the composition.